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Max S. Baucus

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Baucus, Max S., "National Symposium on RARE II" (August 4, 1978). *Max S. Baucus Speeches*. 69.
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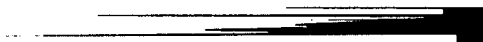
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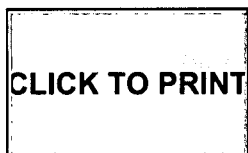


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 **Remarks Before the National Symposium on RARE II**

 **08/04/1978**



REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN MAX BAUCUS
BEFORE THE
NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RARE II
UNIVERSITY CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
MISSOULA, MONTANA
AUGUST 4, 1978

SECRETARY CUTLER, CHIEF McGUIRE AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE DRAFT EIS FOR THE RARE II PROCESS. I WELCOME EACH OF YOU TO WESTERN MONTANA. MAY THIS SYMPOSIUM BE STIMULATING AND INFORMATIVE. SPEAKING OF RARE EXPERIENCES, WHAT COULD BE BETTER THAN TWO DAYS IN MONTANA.

I HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED THE TASK OF PRESENTING A CONGRESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE CONCERNING THE RARE II PROCESS. WHEN I WAS ASKED, ON RATHER SHORT NOTICE, TO ADDRESS YOU THIS EVENING, THE OLD TALE OF THE MAN WHO WAS ATTEMPTING TO CROSS THE RIVER ONLY TO FIND HIMSELF WAIST-DEEP IN ALLIGATORS IMMEDIATELY CAME TO MIND. SINCE THE RARE II PROCESS WAS INITIATED LAST YEAR, I AM CERTAIN THAT CHIEF McGUIRE CAN IDENTIFY WITH MY ANALOGY.

THIS EVENING, I WANT TO REINFORCE TWO BASIC POINTS I HAVE STRESSED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE RARE II PROCESS. AS I SEE IT, THE WHOLE OBJECTIVE OF THE RARE II PROGRAM IS TO ARRIVE AT SOME FINAL DECISIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE USE OF THE REMAINING ROADLESS AREAS IN THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM. TO THE DEGREE THAT THE PROCESS CAN RESOLVE THE ALLOCATION DECISIONS OF SOME OF THESE AREAS, TWO EQUALLY IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES ARE ACHIEVED. FIRST, WE REMOVE SOME OF THE UNCERTAINTY CONCERNING THE LAND BASE FOR NON-WILDERNESS FOREST USES, SUCH AS TIMBER HARVEST, AND SECONDLY, WE ASSURE THAT WILDERNESS VALUES OF KEY AREAS ARE, IN FACT, RECOGNIZED, AND THESE AREAS ARE INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM.

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, RARE II WILL BE AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY IF THE BASIC ISSUES WE CONFRONT IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ARE NARROWLY PERCEIVED AND DEFINED.

WE MUST ALL RECOGNIZE THAT DECISIONS TO ALLOCATE LAND AND RESOURCES TO SPECIFIC USE ARE MEANINGLESS IF THAT USE IS NOT VIEWED IN TERMS OF ITS IMPACT ON PEOPLE. WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT RESOURCE USE IS A DYNAMIC RATHER THAN A STATIC PROCESS.

FOR INSTANCE, HOW DO WE MEET THE EVER INCREASING DEMANDS WHICH ARE BEING PLACED UPON THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM FOR TIMBER, GRAZING, WILDERNESS AND MINERAL EXPLORATION. IN SHORT, THE DEMAND FOR SCARCE RESOURCES BY A VARIETY OF USERS IS ESCALATING AT AN ALARMING RATE. HOW DO WE ALLOCATE THE REMAINING ROADLESS AREAS IN AN EQUITABLE FASHION? IN MY OPINION, THIS IS THE CRUST OF THE RARE II PROCESS.

WE CANNOT ISOLATE WILDERNESS FROM THE RELATED ISSUES. THEY ARE AS CLOSELY LINKED AS THE ROOTS, TRUNK AND LIMBS OF A PONDEROSA PINE. THE WHOLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROCESS IS LINKED AND IT WOULD BE FOLLY TO NARROWLY DEFINE OR LIMIT ANY OF THESE ISSUES.

THERE ARE SOME WHO WANT ASSURANCES NOW ON EXACTLY HOW THIS REVIEW PROCESS WILL AFFECT THEM BEFORE IT IS COMPLETE. FOR THEM, THERE IS LITTLE HOPE. NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME OF THIS PROCESS CAN BE.

THE INVENTORY PHASE OF THIS PROGRAM, COMPLETED LAST NOVEMBER, IDENTIFIED SOME 66 MILLION ACRES OF ROADLESS LAND. I AM HOPEFUL THAT THE CURRENT PHASE OF PUBLIC EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM WILL GENERATE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO FOSTER CONSENSUS AMONG FOREST USER GROUPS SUFFICIENT TO SETTLE, ONCE AND FOR ALL, A LARGE PORTION OF THIS TOTAL.

HOWEVER, EXPECTATIONS THAT RARE II WILL SOLVE THE ENTIRE ROADLESS AREA ISSUE IN ONE FELL SWOOP, ARE UNREALISTIC.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT A MAJORITY OF THE INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS WILL BE ALLOCATED EITHER TO NON-WILDERNESS OR WILDERNESS CATEGORIES AND THAT VERY FEW AREAS WILL BE PLACED IN THE FURTHER STUDY CATEGORY.

WE NEED TO MAKE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS BASED ON A THOROUGH AND OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE FACTUAL INFORMATION WHICH THIS PROCESS SHOULD GENERATE.

ONCE THOSE DECISIONS ARE MADE, EACH OF US MUST BE WILLING TO ENDEAVOR TO MAKE THEM A REALITY WITH A MINIMUM OF RED TAPE, APPEALS, LITIGATION, AND LEGISLATIVE PROCRASTINATION.

MANY OF YOU ATTENDING THIS SYMPOSIUM WILL PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE EVENTUAL SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THE RARE II PROCESS. WHETHER OR NOT ACCURATE INFORMATION IS USED TO ARRIVE AT FINAL DECISIONS, WHETHER OR NOT WE CAN ARRIVE AT A CONSENSUS ON SPECIFIC ROADLESS AREAS ARE CRITICAL QUESTIONS WHICH CAN ONLY BE ANSWERED BY EACH OF US.

MANY OF YOU HOLD POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, AS CONGRESSIONAL ASSISTANTS, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF RECREATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, AS FORESTERS, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF TIMBER, AGRICULTURAL AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES. TO A GREAT EXTENT, THE DECISIONS OR NON-DECISIONS RESULTING FROM THE RARE II PROCESS WILL BE SHAPED BY YOU AND OTHERS LIKE YOU.

HOPEFULLY, WE CAN AVOID THE TENDANCY OF RESORTING TO EXTRAVAGANT RHETORIC IN THE FACE OF THIS HEATED CONTROVERSY. MISINFORMATION, RUMOR AND INNUENDO ONLY SERVE TO OBSCURE THE CRITICAL ISSUES AND RESULT IN INCREASED POLARIZATION WHICH PERMEATES MANY OF THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FOREST USER GROUPS.

I COUNSEL COOLNESS, CONSENSUS AND RESOLUTION WITH REASONABLE AND NOT EXCESSIVE EXPECTATIONS. IF WE ARE TO ARRIVE AT TIMELY DECISIONS IN THIS PROCESS, ALL SIDES MUST TAKE OFF THE BLINDERS AND GIVE SOME ATTENTION TO THE OTHER SIDE'S VIEW POINT.

THE FINAL RARE II RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOREST SERVICE ARE SCHEDULED TO BE PRESENTED TO THE CONGRESS IN JANUARY. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT THIS TIMETABLE WILL BE MET. IT IS MY HOPE THAT CONGRESS WILL CONSIDER THESE RECOMMENDATIONS IN A TIMELY AND EXPEDITIOUS FASHION.

THIS BRINGS ME BACK TO MY INITIAL POINT -- THAT WE MUST LOOK AT THE TOTAL PICTURE CONCERNING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT -- ALL THE FACTORS ARE INTER-RELATED. RARE II IS ONLY ONE FACET OF THE ENTIRE PICTURE.

WHEN THE RARE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE PRESENTED BY THE FOREST SERVICE NEXT JANUARY, I HOPE THE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE PREPARED TO MAKE THE BUDGET INVESTMENTS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE GOALS OF THE RESOURCE PLANNING ACT AND THE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS WHICH WILL RESULT FROM THE RARE II PROCESS.

IT IS IN THIS AREA THAT THE ACTIONS OF CONGRESS HAVE BEEN SEVERAL STEPS AHEAD OF THE BUDGET REQUESTS PRESENTED BY ANY PRESIDENT OVER THE PAST DECADE. HOWEVER, DESPITE THE CONTINUING EFFORTS BY THE CONGRESS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS TO UPGRADE BOTH THE QUALITY AND THE QUANTITY OF MANAGEMENT ON THE NATIONAL FORESTS, CONSIDERABLE SHORTCOMINGS PERSIST. THIS SITUATION IS LARGELY THE RESULT OF INADEQUATE BUDGET PROPOSALS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

THE ADMINISTRATION, WORKING IN HARMONY WITH CONGRESS, SHOULD CALL FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE RESOURCES PLANNING ACT PROGRAMS. THE RPA SHOULD BE FUNDED AT NO LESS THAN 85% OF THE IDEAL LEVEL IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

REGARDLESS OF THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME OF RARE II, THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE ACREAGE ON THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM WILL REMAIN IN THE MULTIPLE USE CATEGORY. THERE IS CONSENSUS AMONG VIRTUALLY ALL FOREST USER GROUPS THAT MORE EFFECTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THESE AREAS IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO MEET THE RPA GOALS.

INADEQUATE BUDGET REQUESTS AND MANPOWER CEILINGS HAVE CONSIGNED FAR MORE PUBLIC ACRES TO AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WILDERNESS THAN ALL OF THE STATUTORILY CREATED WILDERNESS IN THE SYSTEM. WHAT WE NEED IS INVESTMENTS IN PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES NOT CONTINUED DEBATE OVER ONE AREA OF NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT.

I VIEW THIS MEETING AS A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE WHO MANAGE THE NATIONAL FOREST TO DESCRIBE HOW THEY INTEND TO FACILITATE THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS AFFECTING OUR NATIONAL FORESTS. I COMMEND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THIS SYMPOSIUM ON RARE II POSSIBLE. MAY YOUR DISCUSSIONS TODAY AND TOMORROW BE INFORMATIVE AND STIMULATING. MAY THIS SYMPOSIUM LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR CONSENSUS AND THE EVENTUAL RESOLUTION OF THE ROADLESS AREA ISSUE. THIS IS A TALL ORDER: THE EVENTUAL SIZE OF THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS SYSTEM, THE ECONOMIC VITALITY OF MANY LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND THE EQUITABLE MANAGEMENT OF OUR FOREST RESOURCES HANG IN THE BALANCE.

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